Post-Visit Activities:

Map Your Home Range

Objective: Children will identify what a home range is — an important concept in wildlife

biology — while practicing mapping skills.

Background: All animals have a "home range"—the area where they travel to find food, water,

shelter, and raise a family. Predators (carnivores) typically have a much larger home range than prey species – usually herbivores. That is because a herbivore's (plant eater) food is much more abundant than that of a carnivore (predator). People have home ranges too — the areas we go to visit friends, buy food, go to school, play

games, sports, and other activities.

Materials: You will need to make or get a simplified map of your local area.

Procedure: Using a local map, have students label places that are important to them — friends'

homes, grocery stores, school, library, sports facilities, etc. Then they should draw a prominent line around their home ranges. They can try to calculate how much area their home range is and compare it to the list of predator home ranges. This idea of space may be hard for the students to visualize. Try to compare these numbers to something students can understand. The Black Hills is about 100 miles north to south and 50 miles east to west equaling about 5000 square miles. Wind Cave

National Park is about 44 square miles.

Average Habitat Requirements for Predators	
Grizzly Bear	As much as 800 square miles
Gray Wolf	10 square miles for one wolf
Gray Wolves	460 square for average pack
Mountain Lion	From 30 to 300 square miles
Coyote	From 5 to 26 square miles depending on habitat

Extension:

Have your students make a picture of the home range for the animal or plant they selected from the **Nametag Activity.** Suggest that they consider how humans might change the picture or how we could help improve the habitat. The most serious problem driving species to extinction is the loss of habitat. Every day, more and more natural areas are lost to roads, houses, shopping malls, and other human development. There are many organizations that are aware of the problem and are helping animals: Bat Conservation International, Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The students might want to investigate some of these organizations and see if there are ways the class can help with wildlife projects – may be by planting trees or butterfly gardens or cleaning up litter. The National Wildlife Federation has a program called Backy ard Wildlife Habitat in which students can become involved. Check out their website at www.nwf.org/habitats.